



The Observer

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Creative Corner



By Shannon Kiley

Guest Writer

On January 30, 31, and February 1, the Columbian Players presented "An Evening of One Acts." The show was essentially five different one-act plays separated by brief comedic interludes. None of the acts chosen are well-known, and the final one "Well, I'm Going" was written by the director, Professor John Rahe.

Each act featured no more than three actors and ran between fifteen and thirty minutes. While none of the acts were terribly similar, all but one shared a common theme: relationships. The first act, "Sure Thing," demonstrated how easily one could turn away someone they were meant to be with when they meet for the first time. The second act, "The Boor," is an explosive Russian farce that ends with two individuals who cannot stand each other realizing they want to be together. The third act, "The Philadelphia," broke the mold. This comedy follows a character who is trapped in a world where everything is the opposite of what he wants it to be. Still, he ends with what may be the start of a relationship with a waitress. The fourth show, "A Marriage Proposal," is another farce that tells the story of a man who wishes to ask a woman to marry

Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.

The cast and the crew of "An Evening of One Acts" after the last technical rehearsal. This was the first production by the Columbian Players of 2014.

him, but instead he spends nearly the entire time arguing with her and her father about trivial matters. The final act, "Well, I'm Going," brings the series full-circle by depicting a couple as they leave each other. Between each act, either a monologue or short "Overheard at a Party" bit was presented in which the cast would walk around the stage and make ridiculous comments in conversation with one another.

The cast of fourteen actors included six seniors who performed their final straight play on the SJC stage. These more experienced actors enjoyed the company of six individuals who had their SJC debut during this show. The Columbian Players perform two straight plays and one musical each year. This year's musical is Grease. Auditions are February 5 and 6 at 6:30 in the theatre and are open to any students. The show will be performed on April 10, 11, and 12.



Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.
Seniors Erik Benson and Mike Sosnowski, freshman Logan James, and senior Alycia Tassone perform during one of the "Overheard at the Party" comic interludes between the different One Act plays.



Music Students participate in Indiana Intercollegiate All-State Band

By Alyssa Cook

News Writer

On January 23, six of Saint Joseph's College's students had the opportunity to perform in the Indiana Intercollegiate All-State Band, a very exclusive group of talented musicians from all over the state. After only one day of practice they gave a concert, showcasing the talents and hard work of some of Indiana's finest college-age musicians.

Six students from the SJC band participated in the Indiana Intercollegiate All-State Band, including Senior Music Education major Adam Bloesch, Junior Music Education major Rebecca Connors, Senior Music Education major Chris Davies, Freshman Music Performance major Erich Davies, Sophomore Music Education major Hannah Ramey, and Sophomore Music Education major Taylor Roberts. In order to participate, students had to be nominated by the band director, Robb Thiel. "Robb nominates people who are going to get the best out of the experience and

represent SJC," said Chris Davies, a trumpet player.

Participating students from all over the state traveled to Fort Wayne, Indiana to prepare for their performance on Friday, January 24. Upon their arrival, they were presented with music they had never played before and immediately began auditioning for chair positions. The music was very advanced and challenging, especially to sight-read as they auditioned to see what parts they would play in their sections. They practiced for fourteen hours (8 a.m. until 10 p.m.) under guest conductor Kevin Sedatole of Michigan State University. The concert was presented the next day as part of the Indiana Music Educator's Conference at the Historic Embassy Theatre of Fort Wayne.

Upon their return, many of the students who went described the experience as not only enjoyable but also very humbling. Looking back on it, Chris Davies called his participation in the Intercollegiate All-State Band "a wonderful experience, an honor,

and a privilege," a mutual feeling among many of the students who went. "You don't often get to play with that caliber of musicians," Davies added. "It was very humbling and magical."

Roberts shares a very similar reaction. "It was a really great experience as a music major," Roberts said, "but also humbling because you saw kids from

different programs. It was a humbling experience to see where people come from."

For those who participated, performing in the Intercollegiate All-State band is a great achievement. They had the opportunity to perform with music talent from around the state, and in doing so they have represented their fellow pumas well.



Indiana All Collegiate Band
Saint Joseph's College
2014

Photo courtesy of Taylor Roberts. Junior Rebecca Connors, sophomore Hannah Ramey, freshman Erich Davies, senior Chris Davies, sophomore Taylor Roberts, senior Adam Bloesch, and Band Director Robb Thiel traveled to Fort Wayne, IN to participate in this prestigious band.

The British are Coming...

To Perform Shakespeare's As You Like It

By Kylie Hill

News Writer

Friends, Pumas, countrymen! Lend me your ears! Come I to betoken on thou great news! The Actors From the London Stage (AFTLS) are coming to Saint Joseph's College. On February 10, 2014 through February 16, 2014, AFTLS will be visiting our campus. They will be giving a presentation to Core 4, as well as giving presentations in English, Business, and Theater classes. On Friday, February 14 and Saturday, February 15 at 7:30 p.m., they will be performing *As You Like It*, as part of their Spring 2014 tour. This will take place in the College Theatre in the Evans Arts and Science Building, which is located on the second floor of the building.

As You Like It is a Shakespearean romantic comedy that takes place in France. It follows a young woman named Rosalind's journey as she flees the Court. She is accompanied by her cousin, Celia, and Touchstone, the court jester. Along the way they discover love and encounter a variety of characters. Professor John Rahe, the head of the Theatre department, commented that "This will be a nice romantic comedy to go along with Valentine's Day."

AFTLS is one of the oldest touring Shakespeare companies. They are based out of England where they live and rehearse. The Shakespeare program at The University of Notre Dame,

which is part of their drama department, is in charge of booking their academic tours. They travel around the United States performing two tours per year at about 16-20 universities. According to the University of Notre Dame, "During a five-day residency of performances and in-class workshops, five actors—who hail from such prestigious companies as the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre of Great Britain, and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre—breathe new life into Shakespeare's works for your students and community." For this tour the five actors—also called players—will be Jennifer Higham, Joannnah Tincey, Dan Winter, Robert Mountford, and Patrick Miller. They will each be

portraying multiple characters. They have extensive experience and are professionals. Professor Rahe noted that "this is a great opportunity to get at this time and we took advantage of it...I hope students will take advantage of this as well." He also hopes that students are polite to the Company as they see them around campus.

Students will be admitted free, as the Student Association is sponsoring the AFTLS visit. To ensure that they get seats, students will be asked to register online. Registration will be located on the Alumni page on the school website. Registration is free as well. Walk-ins are also welcome, however, a seat will then not be guaranteed. Professor Rahe will be sending out more information



Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Science Olympiad competition fosters fun, learning, teamwork

By Alex Yong

News Writer

For the past 30 years, Saint Joseph's College has hosted Science Olympiad, a national program designed to foster and develop interest in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields through competition.

"We started hosting tournaments around 1990," Associate Professor of Chemistry and Co-Director of Science Olympiad Rob Pfaff said of the program. "We have always hosted the tournament with a middle school division and a high school division. Nationally, there is also an elementary school division, but it hasn't taken hold in Indiana. To the best of my knowledge, SJC is by far the smallest school hosting a tournament in Indiana."

This year alone, at the time of writing, there are currently 40 students, 5 alumni and 5 faculty

members signed up to help out with the program.

Pfaff has very high view of the program, and encourages any student to get involved in it. "The best reason for someone at the College to become involved is because it's fun! We get to treat middle and high school students to a day of competition in which they can showcase their talents, learn from one another, and get reassurance that being a 'science nerd' is okay."

When asked about examples of the events at Olympiad, Senior Biology-Chemistry major and the Trial and Written Test Events Coordinator for Science Olympiad G.W. Childs responded with, "Science Olympiad encourages group learning by designing events that forge alliances. In 'Elevated Bridge,' an engineering whiz and a kid from wood shop can become gold medalists. Similarly, a talented builder and a student with a good science vocabulary can excel in

"Write It, Do It," one of Science Olympiad's most popular events."

Pfaff and Childs both had good memories of the events that take place at Olympiad. "Every awards ceremony I've helped with, the participants run up to collect their trophies when Colby Alexis announces the winning teams. It is enjoyable when everyone is happy because you put in a lot of work to run the competition." Childs said of his time at the program.

Pfaff expressed a similar sentiment. "My most memorable stories about Science Olympiad aren't really one-time events, but ongoing. For example, when we hold our awards ceremony at the end of the day, it's hard to hear with all the cheering in the Shen Auditorium."

For anyone interested in helping out with the program, Science Olympiad will take place on February 8, 2014. Contact GW Childs at gct8510@saintjoe.edu for more information.



Career Corner

CCE Career Fair provides opportunities for job-seekers

By Carey Monroe

Career Development Office

opportunities that you never may have thought about.

Prompts you to do something about your resumé writing and interviewing skills.

Provides you with an opportunity for face-to-face contact with a recruiter and a chance to polish your networking skills (no matter how brief your contact is).

Is a great opportunity for situational leadership. Take charge and assert yourself. Get to be known!

Provides face-to-face contact with employers crucial in a competitive job market. You may send out hundreds of "faceless" resumés or online applications, but direct interaction with employers at a job fair allows you to deliver a "30-second commercial" selling your skills and personal qualities to the employer, ask questions, and make a great impression! Also,

keep in mind that employers pay a fee to attend a job fair—if they didn't think it was beneficial for them to meet candidates in person and that this could all be done through a website, then they wouldn't come!

If you are interested in attending this great event, please contact the Career Development office by email or phone at cmonroe@saintjoe.edu or 219-866-6116. There is also a sign-up sheet for the bus in the window at the entrance of the dining hall in Halleck.

Upcoming Puma Events!

Happening Now: Seifert's Biggest Loser Competition

Feb 10 - 15 - Actors from the London Stage

Feb 9 - 27 - Phonathon

Feb 16 - 19 Busy Student Retreat

Want to get the word out about your event?

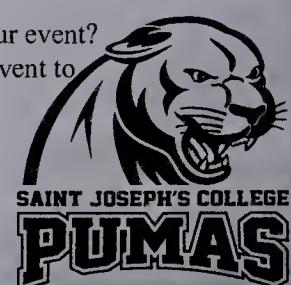
Email the date and name of your event to

Randee Porteus at

rpt8460@saintjoe.edu or

Jessica Ruschke at

jrt8465@saintjoe.edu!



Fight for Fitness

By Ashley Brinkman

Opinions Writer

What do you do if you go to the fitness center above the track and it is packed full with both people and athletes alike working out? Do you wait for the machine you really want to open? Do you leave in hope that when you come back in a couple hours a machine will be open?

As a frequent visitor to the fitness center, I have found myself asking these questions on a regular basis. It seems like that no matter what time I try to get in my workout, the gym is packed full of people. It is hard enough with a full eighteen credit hours and a job to find time to work out, but to have to fight students, professors, and athletes for a treadmill or elliptical is ridiculous. It doesn't seem to matter if I go at 3:30 directly from my last afternoon class or at 6:00 right after dinner, the small fitness center is full. I have two solutions this horrendous problem.

First, the size of the fitness center needs to be seriously reconsidered. With a student body of approximately 1,200,

the fitness center can hold a max of about 25 people at a time. I find this number laughable. The fitness center should be able to hold at least twice this number to accommodate the number of students who use the center. I understand that a full remodel is slightly unreasonable, but I feel that if the west facade of the fitness center was extended and more cardio and machine weights were added it would greatly reduce the congestion in the center.

The second option is to extend the hours of the fitness center. I know that if the fitness center was open earlier in the morning or later at night it would be easier for me to get in a workout. I find that I am most motivated to work out early in the morning, but since the fitness center does not open until 9 o'clock in the mornings I can't work out because I have early morning classes. This would also benefit many other students who feel similarly. These are just a couple of my suggestions to improve the greatly used, but under appreciated, fitness center of Saint Joe's.



(Above) Photo courtesy Google Images: You shouldn't have to work so hard to work out



(Above) Photo courtesy of Google Images: Babies are cute but a lot of work

Baby Boom

By Johna Bottorff

Opinions Writer

It seems like it's in the water these days, pregnancy I mean. It seems like everyone is getting pregnant, and we all know where babies come from.

I just don't understand what the trend is with getting pregnant. I mean, I know it's a part of life, but it seems like the age for pregnancy is getting younger and younger. I don't know what they are thinking. Don't they know that taking care of a baby is a lot of work? Don't they know that babies don't talk? They can't just go "Mom my diaper's full." Plus, there are all the expenses for a baby; you have to buy clothes, food, diapers, etc. The one thing I hate is when girls go "I don't know how this happened." Do you really not know how this happened? I mean come on, it's not rocket science.

Babies are cute and sweet, don't get me wrong, I love babies. I could just hold them all day but don't have a baby if you're not ready. Especially if you don't have a job, you are still in school, and any number of other things. This probably sounds like a rant, but it makes me so sad to see all these young girls pregnant and doing it on their own. You can't have a baby if you're still a baby yourself. When you have a baby you have to grow up in a matter of months. You have to become an adult before you are even ready.

So, before you do the deed think about the repercussions of your actions. You're bringing another person into this world. Do you really want to be responsible for messing up someone's life? That's too much pressure for a young person, so think before you act.

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(Below) Photo courtesy of Mike Sosnowski: Kinda defeats the purpose.

We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph's College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

Rambling Thoughts of a Senior

By Kristina Hemmerling
Features Co-Editor

With my college career quickly coming to a close (there are less than 100 days to graduation) I have recently found myself often looking back at what I've done and accomplished in the last three and a half years. The more I look back, the more I'm not sure. I've completed one major and am about to finish another. I've completed three full years of NCAA Division II athletics in track and field (a total of seven years so far of track). I've fallen in love. I've been hurt. I've made friends. I've lost friends. I've read lots of stuff. I've gone to, I think, every single Core lecture ever, except for a few where I was sick/dying. I've just recently gotten drunk for the first time. I've watched a million movies. I've stayed up way too late talking about life and *The O.C.* Basically, I've done a lot of stuff, just like most of you have.

But after what happened two Saturdays ago, I've been thinking about all of this "stuff" in a different light. Yeah, it's stuff. Some of it sucked, some of it rocked, and some of it was pointless, but I did it anyway. What I've been scared about though, is if I've appreciated it enough.

Out of all the schools in the country I chose this one. This school with about a fourth of the population of my high school. This school with teachers that I can text if I'm going to be late or need to set up a meeting or just talk. This school with so many flaws. Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana, population of roughly (according to Google) 5,912 people. Rensselaer, Indiana with its one Wal-Mart, one Strack and Van Til, one bowling alley,

and no Starbucks.

Sometimes I can't stand how small the town is or how I don't have a car or how small our campus is and everyone knows everything in about five minutes. But that's just sometimes. Most of the time I really like it. I hear people complain, maybe daily, about how boring Rensselaer is and, by extension, SJC is. But I really don't think it's all that boring. In my Core 10 class we were talking about why so many students get blackout drunk on the weekends. One reason seems to be that it's boring here. I will admit, there's not always a lot going on. We have PAC, but they can't constantly be putting on events. We have plays and improv shows, but those are seldom. Other departments in the school host events, too, but a lot of people forget about them or think

they will be boring. Maybe all of these events will be boring, but they don't have to be.

I am a firm believer in the motto, or Hannah Montana quote depending on how you look at it, that life is what you make it (so let's make it rock!). If you say Rensselaer sucks and there's nothing to do, you will find it to be true. If you go to a comedian on campus expecting him or her to be terrible, you probably will find that he is. But there's the other side, too. If you go to an event determined to make sure it's fun, it will be. Bring all your friends. Dance like idiots. Pay really close attention so you don't miss any details. Get a little drunk before you go if you insist you're socially awkward, but don't blackout. If you and your friends really think this place sucks, you're doing it wrong.

We all have friends and people we like to hang out with. Instead of having only two options—blackout or sitting alone in your room all night—make more options. Watch a movie with your friends. Explore campus at night. Sneak around. Play (reasonable) pranks. Have fun.

I remember the times in high school and middle school where all I needed to have fun was my friends. It seems that in college, many people no longer see this as the case. There needs to be alcohol present or something really super awesome going on on campus or in town.

But seriously, in middle school we couldn't do anything. Mom had to drive to the movies or mall and she didn't want to do that every weekend (I know because I tried, she also had to pay so that may be where the problem

lies). Dad had to approve doing anything new with your friends (like going to a park after dark, which is illegal where I'm from). And your little sister ALWAYS wanted to play in your room with you if you were alone (and when your friends were over, but they thought she was cute so it was okay). All we really had were our friends and our, perhaps dorky, imaginations to come up with something awesome to do.

So why now the need for "stuff" to do? Why can't we just be happy to be up until 5 AM talking to friends about *The O.C.* or watching five movies in a row with your best friend? Why do we have to get drunk and go to bars and break shit? Why do we feel entitled to have other people coordinate stuff for us to do? Why aren't we just happy having what we've always had?

I don't know. You may not either. Sometimes I wish I could be back in middle school when I didn't care my hair made me look like a boy, back when I didn't have boobs or back pain or real boy problems. And maybe I'm the only one who wants that and thus I'm the only one who wonders about this stuff, but maybe not.

Maybe no one will read this or maybe everyone will read this and get really pissed off. I hope not. What I hope for is a life after college and friends I can remember all this stuff with. Hopefully the things I've done here are meaningful and memorable. I hope I can look back and appreciate the little things and times when I bonded with people I didn't expect to. I hope that I've done a good job as a student, athlete, and friend. I hope that everyone here gets something out of his time here, even if it's short.



Saint Joseph's College is full of scenic views such as this one of the chapel in spring. Often times we students find a lot to complain about here—the food, the class times, the weather—but maybe if we took more time looking for stuff like this—the pretty stuff—we'd find there's more to SJC than we thought. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland C.P.P.S.

Ponderings about SJC as a Freshman by a Freshman from Far Away

By: Cheri Broch
Guest Writer

Freshman year... A time of growth and change and homesickness. But, Saint Joseph's College gives you a sense of home away from home. That is until the weekend, really. Then everyone goes home, to their real homes, because they have the option and ability to.

Most people here are close to home, maybe an hour or two drive, that they take advantage of that. Making all the more obvious my lack of ability to do the same.

This school is something special. People care. Everyone knows everyone - the word stranger isn't in our vocabulary. Saint Joe students help one another. That's something hard to come by at a big school.

However, seeing everyone go home every weekend isn't easy. Don't take that for granted. That you can go and see your family

any time. I'm from Washington, the state. It's a four-plus hour flight away. To just drive home would be amazing... I don't regret coming here though.

I've met some amazing people. Gotten to see a whole different side of life. A side of life where people help others without a second thought, where people hold strong to their beliefs, and where people know how to have a good time! The experiences here aren't something to take for granted. How kind and willing to help students and staff are here - is a gift.

So the reason I'm leaving has solely to do with myself. And my, call me a baby if you like, need to be closer to my family. I've been so blessed to make a new "family" here, in the cross country and track teams as well as in the dorm. How much I appreciate all those people cannot be expressed in words. But, they cannot trade for real family. I miss my best

friend, who happens to be my mom, my dad, my little brother, and my dog; honestly it's mostly the dog.

I can't call my dog to talk to him, I mean I can attempt to Skype him but he gets bored and trots away. Yeah, not the same...

I will admit to you all- I will not miss the cold here in Indiana. Oh my goodness I will not miss that feeling of your face being frozen by the biting wind; even when you're just walking. Or forcing those doors open at the Halleck Center. A lack of arm muscles really aren't helpful there. So to all you Indiana natives I give you some credit to deal with all this snow and cold. My tolerance, or lack thereof, to the cold has become more apparent.

But I digress, Saint Joe is a great place. To really get to know people and professors. To really build relationships with students and an attachment to campus. And to really learn about yourself.



Above: Cheri and her alumna mother Carol Broch (her best friend) on Cheri's first day at SJC. Missing family, friends, warm weather, and your dog seem to be reasonable reasons for wanting to be closer to home.

Who you are and what you believe. Core, and philosophy - I recommend taking at least one class, it's pretty fantastic - force you to. All this without worrying about getting lost in the shuffle

of a big school where you're just a number. I wouldn't have traded that insight for anything. I hope all of you have an amazing college career here. Stay strong Pumas!

features

An Intellectual Dissection of 12 Years a Slave

By Corey Dowds

I'm Real Crazy

An Intellectual Dissection of 12 Years of Slave

The Ritz just concluded its playing of critically acclaimed movie "12 Years a Slave." If you knew the movie was playing and passed up the chance to see it, ya dun goofed. This movie was like Slumdog Millionaire meets Robocop. Well, that isn't quite accurate, but it was still really good. As you might imagine, it has pretty heavy subject material. The content can be downright gruesome and depressing sometimes, but ultimately, the emotional payoff is worth the hardship. When I decided to watch this instead of the bloopers to Waterboy, I made the right decision.

"12 Years a Slave" is about this one particular bro. This bro, who you might imagine, is black. He is living a free life with his family in the north. One day, the main character bro meets some other bros who do him the dirty by double crossing him. That is when the movie gets all sad and junk. Turns out these bros who the main character thought were his friends actually weren't! So he becomes a slave thanks to those baddies. By this time everyone in the theater is sobbing their heads off. That isn't even the start

of it though! Then people start getting hit with whips. Later on the main character guy runs into some nice white people and some mean white people. Ultimately, the nice white people get made fun of by the mean white people. For instance, Brad Pitt is the nicest white man in the movie. Pitt plays a Canadian, so you could probably guess that all the Southern Slave owners ridicule him mercilessly. However, Brad Pitt calls upon the sacred power of the maple leaf and dispells all of the slave owners with one mighty inferno spell.

As you might imagine the entire audience is dirtying their cry-wipes and embarrassing their prepubescent children. At this point the main bro has gone through a lot, like being separated from his family for over a decade. He's pretty cheezeed about this whole thing. You have to wait until the end though for things to get all "woah." I won't spoil it for you here though (Lord Xenu comes down and bombs the land with nuclear warheads until their spirits fly up and manifest negative emotions, roll credits).

Anyway, Richard Roeper said this movie was "tight," and I can see where he is coming from, at least a little. I would give this movie a 4/5 bananas, but the video game was better.

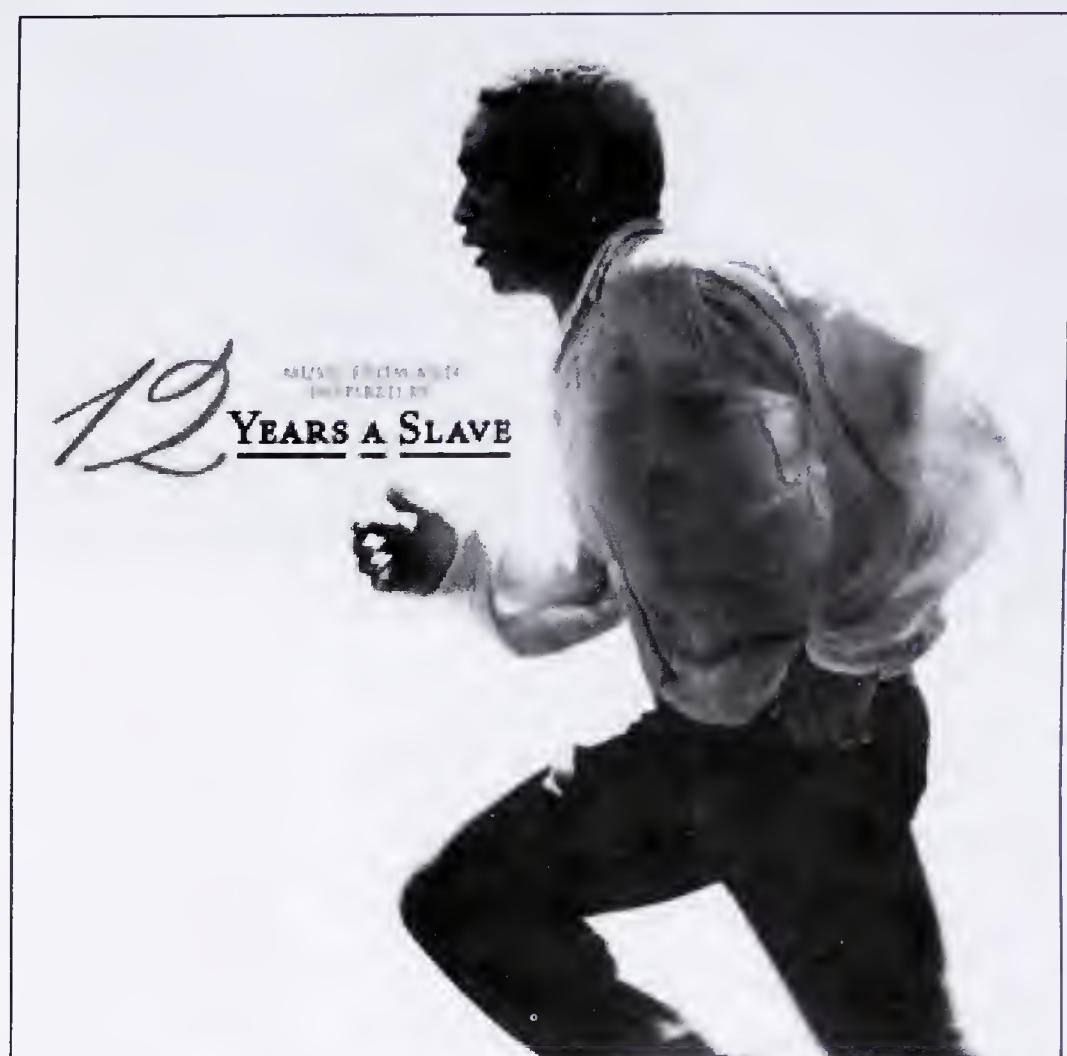


Image courtesy of Google Images. Here is the main guy. A lot of old women in our theater cried because they felt bad for this guy. However, this movie was so excellent it was worth watching through the sobs of many

How to Command Respect From Your Mom and Dad

By Lando Dowds

Pretty Good Article, Considering I'm Corey's Dog. I mean I'm not really "Corey's" I'm pretty independent and I can look out for myself.

Are you guys tired of your parents calling and nagging you? We are adults, you know!? We demand to be treated as such! After all, we have proved that we can prioritize and make responsible decisions. Just getting to college proved that. We have all had that moment when our mom says "I'm going to call the athletic director and give him a piece of my mind!" Or "While you're at the house make sure to take out the garbage because you aren't good at anything else." Well no more! Those days are over now. As a senior I practically have my degree in "Respect-getting." It's actually English, which I'm really good at, but you guys already knew about that. Anyway, I have a couple of easy methods so that any chump can get approval from the ones who spawned them.

Method One: The Y/C Method

One thing that I learned from my father is the value of

yelling, or the "Y." Whenever you feel like you have a point or something really important to say to your parents, make sure to yell. This is one of the best ways to ensure that you have their attention and you have become an adult. If you want to let them know you have become an adult emotionally, crying, or the "C" would be a better bet. Usually seeping liquid from the old eye ducts gets everyone to shut up in a hurry. Both of these methods are effective in person or over the phone. Research has even suggested that snapchatting or facetimeing can be an effective approach.

Method Two: Show your political prowess

By this time in our lives, we have opinions about everything. One of the best ways to command respect from Mom and Dad is to show them this type of personal advancement. The best possible way of doing this is voting. Usually you can get more respect by voting the opposite party that they do. If your two parents are split, vote green party, even though it's pointless. If they try to engage you in some kind of in depth political conversation, resort to Yelling (See step 1) and make sure to throw in phrases you

heard your dad say in the past, such as "taxpayer money," "this economy," or if you're feeling desperate, "the pros of libertarianism."

Method Three: Use the Necronomicon or Dark Magic

Pretty self-explanatory.

Method Four: Use Psychological or Financial Leverage over Them

Again, not really sure what else to say here. Kind of the "good guy" way out, but different strokes for different folks I guess.

Method Five: Use Your Knowledge of the Technological World to Make Them Feel like They Have Lost Their Understanding of the World and Perhaps by Extension, Their Purpose.

Again, this is kind of the method for "Knights in Shining Armor." There is no better way of commanding respect than lowering self-esteem. This is typically the last resort type method, as it is a guarantee. This can be



Image courtesy of Google Images. Thanks to these easy methods, the ones that raised you will be broken and groveling at your feet in no time, bending to your will and command.

easily inserted into conversation when mentioning computers and technology. Any key word such as "Flappy Bird," "Twitter," or "Porn Hub" can get this conversation going. When your drooling Dad

asks "What's Porn Hub?" You can laugh in his face when showing him, potentially ruining his self-esteem making you the alpha. From now on, you'll be eating first like the alpha-wolf should!

Indoor Track Season Underway

By Bisrat Desta
Sports Staff Writer

Terrible traveling conditions almost put a halt on the Pumas trip to Indian Wesleyan on January 25th, but they overcame the odds to have a stellar meet. Due to slick roads and high speed winds the Pumas were a little behind schedule as the Wildcat Invite was postponed for an hour. The postponement seemed to have little to no effect on the athletes that competed as they came out of the meet with good results. Both the men's and women's teams had good contributions from the underclassmen.

It is difficult to tell how the season will turn out with a roster full of underclassmen, but it seems like that will not stop the Pumas from reaching their goal, which is to win a conference title.

"After seeing the underclassmen perform at these past few meets I am impressed, I think they will fit in well," said senior Biology-Chemistry major Mike Fauser.

With a signoff of confidence from accomplished upperclassmen like Fauser, it shows that everyone is on board to make a run at the conference title. Oluwayemi Ogunbameru, a freshman sprinter exemplified the upperclassmen have such confidence, as he took third place in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 8.57. Brian Eurton also had a good showing as he ran



Junior Sami Nirva in Lane 2 and sophomore Alex Meier are set in the blocks before the 60 meter hurdle prelims begin at their most recent meet at Grand Valley State.

Photo courtesy Kristina Hemmerling

4:31 in the 1600.

The best performances came from freshman Justin Hays and sophomore Heather Monk. Monk led the lady throwers by winning the shot put with a mark of 42 feet, 9.75 inches. Hays took fourth place in the 5k with a time of 15:36 which is his personal best. Junior Samantha Nirva also had a great performance in the 60 meter hurdles and high jump. Junior Logan Barrett, who has been a consistent performer, led the Puma distance runners in the 5k, finishing the race with a time of 15:34. He was followed by Hays, and senior Richard Kaht who finished in 15:46.

Head coach Bill Massocci said, "Travel was tough, but we produced marks and times near the top of each event. I am looking forward to what we can do next week as well as later in February."

This past weekend the Pumas traveled to Grand Valley State University to compete in a five way meet. Once again they battled through bad weather and spent a long day traveling. While they did not do as well as they had hoped, they will not let this get them down as their season continues.

On the men's side, Mike Fauser got third in the 800 with

a time of 1:52, which is a national provisional qualifying time. Logan Barrett won the mile with a time of 4:12, also a provisional qualifying time.

On the women's side, Heather Monk put up some points for the Pumas. Sam Nirva got third in the 60 meter hurdles, improving her qualifying mark. Trisha Hanlon put points on the board in the mile with a PR, with another PR from Allison Boyle in the 800 meter.

They will travel to Hillsdale College on February 7.

High Hopes for New Softball Coach

By Samantha Foutch
Guest Writer

Sometimes change can be a scary thing, but fear wasn't what the Puma softball team felt with the announcement of their new softball coach, Diane Stephenson. With a coach who has over 30 years of experience in the game of softball, "eagerness" and "excitement" were better words to describe their feelings: Eagerness to learn more about the game and excitement to see what their futures held. For anyone who has had the privilege to meet Coach Stephenson, they know without doubt that she is a positive addition for both Saint Joseph's College, as well as the softball team. Her positive energy, knowledge of softball, and dedication will carry the team far as they begin their season.

The softball team is projected to start their season this upcoming week as they travel to Huntsville, Alabama. The team has been working hard since they returned to campus in early January and they plan to continue until they achieve their goal of making it to the World Series in Salem, Virginia.

Just by stepping into a practice on any given day you can feel the intensity that they bring day in and day out. The goal for each

day, as Coach Stephenson says, is, "get better every day" and that is what they've done.

Though the team may not be at their projected potential yet, Coach Stephenson has no doubt that they will be ready come time to start playing conference games. She tells the team, "There is plenty of time for us to continue getting better."

Some might think returning players and freshman have shoes to fill after losing significant seniors last year, but there is no uncertainty that players are stepping up. Though the graduated seniors will be sorely missed, Coach Stephenson has high hopes for the pitching staff with junior Megan Schwartengraber as the prospective starting pitcher. Freshmen Bri Wagner and Kenzie Anderson will take the roles as starting shortstop and third baseman. Returning players, senior Audra Rains and sophomore Kylie Hirschak will fill the rest of the line-up in the infield at first and second base.

Senior Kylie Weeks will lead behind the plate due to the injury that last year's starting catcher, Ka Davis, tries to heal. Weeks has been the starting left fielder for the past 3 years, but the outfield will remain strong with the leadership of senior Samantha

Foutch, junior Tiffany Gibson, sophomore Caitlin Enright and sophomore Morgan Akre.

Other returning players and freshman will add to the depth chart and will help carry the Pumas to victory.

As stated in their mission statement, "The Puma softball team brings love and respect for the game and for one another," and this is what makes them strong. They are as excited as

ever to begin their season and to see where their dedication and passion leads them.

Come out this season and support the Puma Softball team as they show everyone the hard work they have put in this winter. The Pumas are eager to step on their new infield and excel through their season, and your support along the way will drive them to success.

The seniors this year include Kylie Weeks, Audra Rains, Samantha Foutch, and Shawn Hoskins.

Photo courtesy of Facebook.



Upcoming Events

February 6th

Women's and Men's Basketball
@ U Missouri-St. Louis
5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

February 7th

Men's and Women's Track
@ Wide Track Classic

Softball vs. Northwood University
in Huntsville, AL

Softball vs. U of West Alabama
in Huntsville, AL

February 8th

Softball vs. Delta State University & Wayne State University
in Huntsville, AL

Women's and Men's Basketball
@ Maryville University
1:00 & 3:00 p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. Prairie State College
5:00 p.m.

February 9th

Softball vs. Union University & the University of Alabama
in Huntsville, AL

February 13th

Women's and Men's Basketball
vs. Quincy University
5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Lady Pumas with a Big Win

By Jon Smith
Sports Staff Writer

It has been a tough, hard fought season so far for the men's and women's basketball teams here at Saint Joseph's College. Both teams, despite their records, have continued to play extremely hard every minute of every game.

It seems like right now neither team can get over the hump yet this season. Still, the effort is obvious from both teams. The time will come for more wins than losses for each team and this past weekend's efforts from both sides shows that the future of these two squads are headed in the right direction. However, in the present, the men's and women's squads are trying to make a late push at the end of the season to get into the conference tournament.

That goal to reach the conference tournament could have been reached this past weekend for the Puma's basketball teams if the ball would've just bounced the right way for either team.

First, the Lady Pumas showed their grit and toughness as they went up against a team in Wisconsin-Parkside that they had not beaten in the last 21 contests. The Lady Pumas answered that challenge though and gave Wisconsin-Parkside a game that they will not soon forget. The Pumas were already coming off a tremendous road victory against the University of Illinois-Springfield.

The Pumas carried on that balanced attack they used in that game to win against Wisconsin-Parkside on Thursday 62-52. The Lady Pumas were led in scoring by Kiki Lyons and Jasmyne Reynolds who both had 18 points. Those two have continued scoring the ball and Courtney Kvachkoff has continued her hot shooting streak from the three-point line and added 10 points to the contest. It was the Pumas second consecutive conference

win this season and they seem to be gelling at the right point in the season.

The men's basketball team also played Wisconsin-Parkside on Thursday but had a different outcome. The men have had Wisconsin-Parkside's number for a while but Thursday proved to be a night for the Parkside Rangers. The Pumas came out hot with some strong shooting but the Rangers had an answer for every shot the Pumas had and more. It was a game that was decided at the three point line as the Rangers converted on 12 threes and had 31 assists on the night.

That kind of sharing and hot shooting proved to be too much for the Pumas as they fell 99-71. The Pumas were led in scoring by Jon Smith who had 23 points and 7 rebounds and Cameron Vines who had another double-double with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

Saturday's contests for both teams was against the Flyers of Lewis University. The Lady Pumas who tipped off first gave Lewis their best shot but got down early. The Flyers jumped out to a 15 point lead on the Pumas but Jasmyne Reynolds held down the fort for them and score 17 points in the first half as the Pumas were only down 48-40 at the end of the half.

SJC came out strong in the second half with Tonisha Sanders and Courtney Kvachkoff each hitting three three-pointers giving the Pumas a four point lead. The game went back and forth from then on out and the Pumas did not back off their impressive play. However, Tityana Miler blocked a shot by the Flyers but the ball just bounced into a Lewis players hands for an easy layup that put the Flyers up. SJC turned the ball over the next possession and sealed the game for the Flyers because SJC had to foul and the Flyers shot free throws to close it out. The Pumas lost a hard fought battle 79-73.

The men's game against the Flyers went almost exactly the same, as it was a back and forth affair again this game but again free throws were the difference in the game. The Flyers took an early 27-17 lead on the Pumas because of the fouling committed by SJC early who got called for the first six fouls of the game. However with hot shooting by Dawson Gore and the continued attacking by Cameron Vines the Pumas pulled to within three 38-35 at the end of the first half.

The second half proved to be the hump the Pumas just seem to not be able to get over again this season as the Pumas sent the Flyers to the line even more in the second half. SJC tallied up 15 fouls against Lewis on Saturday and that would be the difference. Lewis shot more than double the free throw attempts by Saint Joe and converted 30 out of 35 of them.

For every Puma point the Flyers had answers with a jump shot or a pair of free throws. The Pumas showed their grit and continue to battle it out but came up short and lost 85-76. A bright spot of the game came from Dawson Gore who had a career



Photo by Fr. Tim McFarland
C.P.P.S.

Above: Cameron Vines battles out a rebound.

Below: The women's basketball team takes the floor.

Photos courtesy Fr. Tim McFarland,
C.P.P.S.



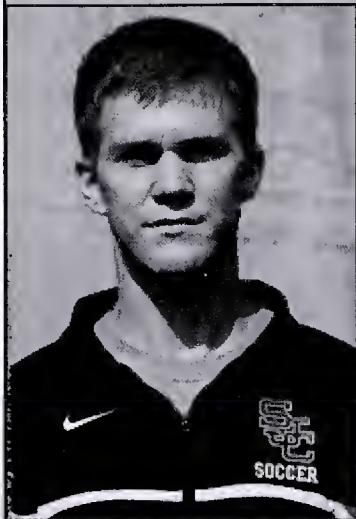
Puma Athlete Spotlight: Ian Connelly

By Katie Guernsey
Sports Editor

Very recently the Pumas lost one of their own, fifth year senior soccer player Ian Connelly.

Ian was from Lithia, Florida, and was a Biology major.

Ian had injuries early in his career here at St. Joe, before he finally was able to play his junior year where he



came off the bench to record one assist and four shots. His senior year he recorded three shots, two on goal. His fifth year he recorded two shots, one on goal.

Ian was a very important part of the St. Joe soccer team, in more ways than just skill-wise. Head coach David Stroud said of Ian: "Ian was a great young man, and you could tell he had his life in order. He went about things with great preparation and organization. He always worked hard at practice and trained as best he could in order to help the team. We

are collectively saddened by this loss."

Ian's friend, roommate, and teammate Alberto Anguiano said: "He was the most dedicated person I knew. On the field, he would play his hardest and when he came off he would have the biggest smile on his face and tell me "Did you see that shot?!" I would be angry or stressed from the game but he knew exactly what to say to make me crack a smile."

By talking to his teammates and friends it is obvious that Ian's dedication showed

no bounds. When the rest of the team was down he would bring them back up with a grin and a joke.

The St. Joe community has seen an outpouring of love from Ian's fellow classmates, friends, and professors since his passing. In Ian's honor, students shared in a moment of silence at the basketball game on Thursday, January 30. In addition, the College celebrated a funeral mass for Ian on Friday, January 31. Though no longer here with us, Ian's presence on campus can still be felt.

the back page

Creative Corner

February 6, 2014

The In Between*By Gloria Leonard*

You've got enough scars on your body
 You lost count long ago;
 Lost yourself somewhere between
 Holding on and letting go.
 Your friends, they make you laugh
 And believe you when you say, "I'm fine."
 But these friends, they don't know you
 Or the truth-- just the lies.
 There's nothing good in Goodbye,
 So I'm taking back my Hello.
 If I'd never let you in
 I wouldn't have to watch you go.



Abstract Painting by Nicole Thomsen

Little Brother
By Randee Portteus

My first thought was that he was the same.

He gave me a hug, like he used to – half-jokingly, half acting like girls were still gross. He looked the same, his brown hair with a cowlick in the front, nose that looked broken, not quite a full grin. He acted the same, frequently bursting into song or sitting down and pounding out a tune on the piano. He wouldn't sing just anything though, it was always something classical, usually in Italian.

He hadn't changed.

I sat on the couch, his older sister next to me, catching me up on her schoolwork, her job, all the girly stuff. Their three-year-old sister sat on my lap, looking at me with large blue eyes, quietly studying my face. He came and scooped her off my lap at the same time the phone rang.

"I'll be back!" Courtney chirped, bouncing up the stairs to answer it.

I decided to break the silence that followed. "How's school, Ben?"

He paused in the middle of spinning his baby sister around the room. His answer was careful, calculated, but all he said was, "Fine."

"Fine?" Ben never watched what he said, only blurted out whatever was on his mind. The fact that he never put up a front and always wore his heart on his sleeve was a part of his charm.

"I'm sure Courtney's told you all sorts of horrible stories."

The statement was so un-Ben-like that I thought for a minute, trying to put together the pieces. I concluded three things:

One – Ben had changed.

Two – he didn't trust his sister.

Three – college was the reason he'd changed.

I opened my mouth to offer something – advice, questions, comfort, jokes? When Courtney breezed back in, and the moment was gone. Ben was struggling, that much I knew, but his sister either didn't know at all or knew and discounted it. Only the biggest problems in life fazed Courtney. She'd never been a part of the smaller dramas that plagued us as high schoolers. Ben, however, had always been in the middle of them. The girls and the friend fights and all of the juicy teen drama stuff.

College was different, and Courtney still didn't engage in it.

But again, Ben was stuck in it. Only now it was more real, more urgent. And he had no one to talk to about it. Having a sister near perfection wasn't easy (I knew from experience) and having one who hadn't gone through the same things had to have been even harder.

I might as well have been his sister. But I had no idea how to talk to him.

A Foretold Goodbye*By Katie Davisson*

Laughter, bright and warm.
 Curly brown hair and olive skin.
 Happy, angry, sad, excited;
 Any emotion so easily displayed.
 I will never forget the face of my mom.

When she wakes up in the morning
 She always has these sleep lines from the wrinkles on her
 pillow,
 And her eyes are squinted.
 No matter what, she always looks like
 the most uncomfortable person in the world.

But I will take that vision of my mother,
 Over the last one I'm gonna see of her,
 any day of the week.
 I will take her jutted chin over a slacked jaw
 And bad morning breath over no breath.

But one day, I'll have to face it.
 The funeral that I'll be asked to sing at,
 To sing a song that could not possibly
 capture the image of my mom.

The way she waits up for me every night.
 How she walks into my room and says "go to bed!"
 The tv shows she interrupts with her piano practicing.
 The time she asked what I would write on her tombstone.
 When I just smiled and said, "Thank you for the music."

Feeling creative? Please send any work (short stories, poems, art work) that you would like to have featured to Nicole Thomsen at ntu9187@saintjoe.edu or to Gloria Leonard at glv9696@saintjoe.edu

**A Spoonful of Sugar***By Nicole Thomsen*

I can no longer drink black coffee.
 The bitter is for me.
 It was for me.
 I don't understand.
 Either I have changed or it has changed.
 I simply can't stand it.
 Has the bitter finally rejected me?
 Am I so dark that even black coffee no
 longer accepts me?
 My heart has been broken.
 It is now plagued with sugar.
 Poisoned with crème.
 Oh my dearest black coffee,
 How dare you betray me?



Skull Painting By Nicole Thomsen

Sittin' With Souls
By Nicole Thomsen

Sometimes when I can't sleep
 I get up and get out.
 Ever seen the moon in Indiana at three in the morning?
 You ever give those stars a chance?
 There's a small cemetery,
 Just off the back road.
 I like to go there when I can't sleep.
 I find myself sittin' with souls,
 Knee deep in their silence.
 Even in winter's coldest bone,
 The deadest of dead still need company.